NER to increase the flow of credit to their affiliated societies/ cultivators.

The revitalization measures suggested by the Task Force/Jóint Committee will be able to take care of cooperative credit Institutions in NER.

Broadening of Tax System

53. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to streamline the present tax system effectively; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Streamlining the tax system is an ongoing process, and such amendments to the Income-tax Act as are considered necessary in this regard are brought in every year through the Finance Bill. The further measures which may be taken this year will form part of the budget proposals.

Tax sops for Credit Card Transactions

54. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'Times of India', dated 10th January, 2002, under the heading "Tax sops for credit card transactions sought";

(b) if so, what is the Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal of India Co-operation Committee (ICC) to launch tax incentives on payment *via* credit cards like Korea Model;

(d) if so, details thereof; and